

# NATO AND RUSSIA: Geopolitical Competition or Pragmatic Partnership?

International Conference organized by the Association for International Affairs (AMO) under the auspices of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic Jan Kohout and in cooperation with the NATO Public Diplomacy Division

**Tuesday, 17 December 2013**

**Mirror Hall, Czernin Palace, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic**  
Loretánské náměstí 5, Prague, Czech Republic

**#AMO\_NATORussia** (suggested hashtag)



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Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
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# Conference Synopsis

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization and Russia have enjoyed an on and off relationship practically since the end of Cold War and the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The evolution of the uneasy collaboration is widely known but the challenges from Afghanistan to Syria have demonstrated that NATO and Russia can and do share, however uneasily, common security concerns to which they should react together. In the 1990s, despite occasional spats, both actors managed to act as partners for the common purpose of ending the conflicts in the Balkans. Since then, according to some, Russia may have slid back into unhappy patterns of authoritarianism, but that should not prevent the two sides from trying to search for intersections of shared interests and goals.

No matter how much NATO members would like to, they can do little to change the basic characteristics of the current political situations in Russia. Nevertheless, they should get over the concept of Russia as a potential military threat. Instead, NATO members should start a hard, complicated discussion on how Russia can be taken as a partner diplomatically and even militarily in facing the pressing security challenges which have sprung to life since the start of this millennium.

The conference brings together experts, policy makers and academics/think-tankers to discuss possible ways of utilizing existing structures of NATO-Russia relationship to pool both parties' capabilities in solving common problems. It will focus on three issues: Firstly, the conference will discuss NATO-Russia relations in the near future, presenting different scenarios of their development according to experts from both Russia and NATO representatives. Secondly, conference participants will critically analyze areas of possible joint action between both powers, including – but not limited to – institutional links established through the NATO-Russia partnership. Despite their differences, the Alliance and Russia share an interest in stable and security perimeter around Europe, and there might be more opportunities for cooperation than the current fog of enmity suggests.

Finally, the conference will attempt to clarify and realistically assess the shared concerns and continuing disagreements over major geopolitical issues, which primarily include the 'shared neighbourhood' between Russia and European NATO members but also the region of Middle East and North Africa (MENA) which appears to be a constant source of security threats and instability for the foreseeable future.

We would like to thank all those whose help and cooperation have made this event possible and hope you will enjoy our conference programme and a fruitful discussion.

*Tomáš Karásek, Chief Analyst of the Research Center, AMO – Association for International Affairs*

# Programme

**Monday, 16 December 2013**

*By special invitations only*

18:30 – 20:00      **Informal Networking Dinner**

**Tuesday, 17 December 2013**

*Open to public*

Conference venue: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic  
Mirror Hall, Czernin Palace, Loretánské náměstí 5, Prague, Czech Republic

8:30 – 9:00      **Registration and Coffee**

9:00 – 9:15      **Opening Remarks**

*Eliška Žigová*, Director of Northern and Eastern Europe Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

*Tomáš Karásek*, Chief Analyst of the Research Center, AMO – Association for International Affairs

9:15 – 9:30      **Presentation of AMO Policy Paper: “Destined to Cooperate? NATO and Russia between Power, Identity and Institutions”**

9:30 – 10:50      **Panel #1: Future of NATO-Russia Partnership**

*Konstantin von Eggert*, Former Editor-in-Chief, BBC Russian Service Moscow Bureau & Kommersant FM radio in Moscow

*Petr Luňák*, Deputy Head of the Engagement Section, NATO Public Diplomacy Division

*Marcel Peško*, Director of the Office of the Secretary General, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Chaired by: *Jakub Kulháněk*, Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic; Member of Supervisory Board, AMO – Association for International Affairs

10:50 – 11:15      **Coffee Break**

11:15 – 11:40 **Keynote Speech: Opportunities for NATO-Russia Cooperation from the Czech Perspective**

*Daniel Kořtoval*, First Deputy Minister of Defence of the Czech Republic

11:40 – 13:00 **Panel #2: Joining Forces – NATO and Russia as Partners in Action**

*Jacek Durkalec*, Analyst, Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM)

*John Lough*, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Statecraft, Oxford; Associate Fellow, Russia and Eurasia Programme, Chatham House; Former NATO Representative in Russia

Chaired by: *Tomáš Karásek*, Chief Analyst of the Research Center, AMO – Association for International Affairs

13:00 – 14:00 **Buffet Lunch**

14:00 – 15:20 **Panel #3: Shared Neighbourhood, Common Problems? From the Post-Soviet Space to the Middle East**

*Frank Umbach*, Associate Director of the European Centre for Energy and Resource Security, King's College, London; Senior Associate and Head of the Programme 'International Energy Security', Centre for European Security Strategies; Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council

*Taşansu Türker*, Associate Professor, Ankara University

Chaired by: *Vít Dostál*, Director of the Research Center, AMO – Association for International Affairs

15:20 – 15:30 **Concluding Remarks**

# Speakers' Bios

## ELIŠKA ŽIGOVÁ



Eliška Žigová is a Director of Northern and Eastern Europe Department at the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. Born in Poland, she has studied Slavic studies at University of Warsaw and continued with Slavic studies, Philosophy and Arts at Charles University in Prague. After seven years working at Central Europe Department of the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs she was appointed a Deputy Head of mission in Cairo, Egypt and Head of representative office in Ramallah, State of Palestine. In 2008 she became Consul General of the Czech Republic in New York, USA, and since 2012 she is working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Prague.

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## TOMÁŠ KARÁSEK



Tomáš Karásek is the Chief Analyst of the AMO Research Center. He earned his master degree and Ph.D. in International Relations at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague (where he also graduated from the Law Faculty). Since 2004 he has been a lecturer at the Faculty's Department of International Relations, teaching courses on the resolution of international conflicts, security and integration in Europe, international security and global terrorism. In 2009 he spent his sabbatical in Shanghai where he taught at the Fudan University. In 2009-2010 he was a Fulbright scholar at the Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, Columbia University in New York. He works in the research center of AMO since 2010.

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## KONSTANTIN VON EGGERT



Konstantin von Eggert was Editor-in-Chief of Kommersant FM radio in Moscow and Editor-in-Chief of the Moscow Bureau of the BBC until recently, now he works as an independent analyst and writer. He is an honors graduate of the Moscow University Institute of Asian and African Studies (M. A. in history and Arabic language). In 1992-1998 he was a diplomatic correspondent, and later became deputy foreign editor of Izvestia daily. He is a regular lecturer at the German Foreign Policy Association Summer School in Berlin, Geneva Centre for Security Policy, The Royal College of Defence Studies in London and Wilton Park. In 2008 H. M. Queen Elizabeth II has made Konstantin a Honorary Member of the Civic Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

@kvoneggert

## PETR LUŇÁK



Petr Luňák is currently working as a Deputy Head of the Engagement Section at NATO Public Diplomacy Division where he oversees public diplomacy endeavours of the Alliance. He is a member of the Czech Foreign Service, he was Deputy Head of the Planning Staff of the Foreign Ministry before joining the NATO International Secretariat in 2000. Mr. Luňák holds a Ph.D. from Charles University in Prague where he taught International Relations and Modern History.

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## MARCEL PEŠKO



Marcel Peško is a Director of the Office of the Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. A graduate of the Kiev Institute of International Law and International Relations, Ambassador Marcel Peško has worked in numerous capacities in the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These includes posts of Secretary-General from 2007 to 2009, Chargé d'affaires of the Slovak Embassy to Ireland or Director of the UN Department and Head of the Coordination Task Force prior and during Slovakia's non-permanent membership of the UNSC from 2005 to 2007. He is connected with OSCE since 1993 when he was a Head of Slovak permanent mission. He has temporarily quit the Foreign Service but re-joined the OSCE again in 2012.

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## DANIEL KOŠTOVAL



Daniel Koštoval serves as a First Deputy Minister of Defence of the Czech Republic. After receiving his M.A. in International Relations he began working at Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the UN department and Security Policy afterwards. He spent 4 years in Permanent Delegation of the Czech Republic to NATO as a Secretary and later a representative to political committee. But even after returning from Brussels he stayed closely connected to NATO as a Head of the Unit for NATO relations with Russia, Ukraine and other partner countries at Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. He then served at Czech embassies in Moscow and Washington and now he represents the Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic as the First Deputy Minister.

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## JACEK DURKALEC



Jacek Durkalec is an analyst at the Non-Proliferation and Arms Control Project of the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM). He specialises in arms control, WMD proliferation, missile defence, NATO's defence and deterrence policy and Polish security policy. He earned his M. A. in International relations at the Jagiellonian University and before he started working at PISM he served as a specialist at Missile Defence Office of the Ministry of National Defence of the Republic of Poland and as an intern at Strategic Planning Unit within the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the UN in New York.

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## JOHN LOUGH



John Lough is an Associate Fellow at the Russia and Eurasia programme at Chatham House. He has spent six years with NATO (1995-2001) managing information programs aimed at Central and Eastern Europe, including a posting to Moscow where he set up the first NATO Information Office in Russia and became the first Alliance official to be permanently based in Russia (1995-1998). During this time, he developed media and PA programmes designed to contribute to better understanding of NATO and its policies in Russian society and was NATO's spokesman in Russia. He studied German and Russian Literature at Cambridge University before going to the Johns Hopkins University – SAIS Bologna Center to receive a diploma in international relations.

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## FRANK UMBACH



Frank Umbach is an Associate Director of the European Centre for Energy and Resource Security (EUCERS) at King's College in London, Senior Associate and Head of the International Energy Security programme at the Centre for European Security Strategies (CESS) in Munich and Senior Fellow at the U.S. Atlantic Council, Washington D.C. He was also a member of an expert group on the future NATO-Russia relations and two high-ranking trans-Atlantic expert groups on energy security. For 10 years he was a consultant to the office of the Special Advisor for Central and East European Affairs of the NATO Secretary-General and now he is a member of the new Ukraine 2020 Task Force – an initiative to support Ukraine's European integration.

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## JAKUB KULHÁNEK



Jakub Kulháněk currently serves as an Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. His primary area of interest is Russia's policy towards NATO and the EU. He has published extensively on post-Soviet affairs, among other things, in the Harvard International Review, Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) journal, The Moscow Times and on the Atlantic Council and Foreign Policy Magazine websites. He holds an MA in Eurasian Studies from the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, Washington DC, and a BA in International Area Studies from

Charles University in Prague.

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## TAŞANSU TÜRKER



Since 2001 Taşansu Türker has been an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Political Sciences at Ankara University. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in international relations from the same university. In 2007 he gained his PhD in history at the Asian and African Studies Institute of the Lomonosov Moscow State University. He is an author of many publications, and a frequent contributor at international forums and conferences. He focuses on history and historiography of the Ottoman Empire, Russia and the Middle East, as well as on the concepts of modernization and nationalism.

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## VÍT DOSTÁL



Vít Dostál is Director of the Research Center of the Association for International Affairs where he –among others – has coordinated the Agenda for Czech Foreign Policy and Trends of Czech European Policy projects. In his research, he is mainly focused on Central Europe, Poland and Czech European and Foreign Policy. He pursues his Ph.D. in European Studies at the Faculty of Social Studies of the Masaryk University in Brno. He completed study stay at Collegium Civitas in Warsaw and internships at the Czech Embassy in Poland and the South

Moravian Region Representation to the EU.

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# Association for International Affairs



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AMO – the Association for International Affairs is a preeminent independent think-tank in the Czech Republic in the field of international affairs and foreign policy. Since 1997, the mission of AMO has been to contribute to a deeper understanding of international affairs through a broad range of educational and research activities. Today, AMO represents a unique and transparent platform in which academics, business people, policy makers, diplomats, the media and NGO's can interact in an open and impartial environment.

In order to achieve its goals AMO strives to:

- formulate and publish briefings, research and policy papers;
- arrange international conferences, expert seminars, roundtables, public debates;
- organize educational projects;
- present critical assessment and comments on current events for local and international press;
- create vital conditions for growth of a new expert generation;
- support interest in international relations in the wider public domain;
- cooperate with like-minded local and international institutions.

## AMO Research Center

Founded in October 2003, AMO's Research Center has been dedicated to carrying out research and raising public awareness of international affairs, security and foreign policy. The Research Center strives to identify and analyze issues important to Czech foreign policy and the country's position in the world. To this end, the Research Center produces independent analyses; encourages expert and public debate on international affairs; and suggests solutions to tackle problems in today's world.

## AMO Team and Volunteers

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**Vít Dostál**, Director of the Research Center

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## **NATO and Russia: Geopolitical Competition or Pragmatic Partnership?**

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